

NEWS RELEASE

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Unemployment Rates Down; Job Growth Remains Slow and Uneven *Six Metro Areas Across State Lose Jobs*

Not Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

Metropolitan Area	August 2015	August 2014	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington	4.5%	5.7%	-1.2
Carbondale-Marion	5.7%	7.1%	-1.4
Champaign-Urbana	4.9%	6.5%	-1.6
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington	5.7%	6.9%	-1.2
Danville	6.7%	8.5%	-1.8
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island,	5.1%	5.9%	-0.8
Decatur	6.8%	8.4%	-1.6
Elgin	5.1%	6.6%	-1.5
Kankakee	6.1%	7.8%	-1.7
Lake-Kenosha, IL-WI	4.7%	6.1%	-1.4
Peoria	6.0%	7.0%	-1.0
Rockford	6.4%	8.0%	-1.6
Springfield	4.7%	5.9%	-1.2
St. Louis (IL-Section)	5.6%	7.1%	-1.5
Illinois Statewide	5.6%	6.9%	-1.3

* Data subject to revision.

CHICAGO – August was the 18th month in a row that unemployment rates fell in every metro area in the state compared to a year ago, according to preliminary data released today by the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Despite some job growth, six metro areas saw job loss.

Illinois businesses added jobs in eight metros. The largest increases were seen in: Carbondale-Marion (+1.7 percent, +900), Danville (+1.7 percent, +500), Champaign-Urbana (+1.3 percent, +1,300), and Elgin (+1.3 percent, +3,300), and Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Division (+1.0 percent or +35,900). Decreases were seen in: Quad Cities (-2.3 percent, -4,200), Kankakee (-1.6 percent, -700), and Peoria (-1.4 percent, -2,600). The industry sectors recording job growth in the majority of metros were: Transportation, Warehousing and Public Utilities (11 of 14), Retail Trade (nine of 14) Wholesale Trade (eight of 14), and Leisure and Hospitality (eight of 14).

“Typically when the unemployment rate goes down, the number of people getting jobs goes up. But since that is not the case in many of Illinois’ metro areas, focusing only on the decline in unemployment

rates does not tell the whole story,” said IDES Director Jeff Mays. “With many people dropping out of the labor force, thereby pulling the unemployment rate down, we need to increase job growth in all metro areas.”

Not seasonally adjusted data compares August 2015 with August 2014. The not seasonally adjusted Illinois rate was 5.6 percent in August 2015 and stood at 12.2 percent at its peak in this economic cycle in January 2010. Nationally, the not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.2 percent in August and 10.6 percent in January 2010 at its peak. Rates also fell in 101 of Illinois’ 102 counties. The unemployment rate identifies those who are out of work and looking for work, and is not tied to collecting unemployment insurance benefits.

Total Nonfarm Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted) – August 2015

Metropolitan Area	August 2015*	August 2014**	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington MSA	94,500	94,000	500
Carbondale-Marion MSA	53,600	52,700	900
Champaign-Urbana MSA	102,000	100,700	1,300
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Div.	3,644,700	3,608,800	35,900
Danville MSA	29,600	29,100	500
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island IA-IL MSA	181,800	186,000	-4,200
Decatur MSA	50,800	50,900	-100
Elgin Metro Division	255,100	251,800	3,300
Kankakee MSA	44,000	44,700	-700
Lake County-Kenosha County IL-WI Metro Div.	408,100	406,200	1,900
Peoria MSA	177,600	180,200	-2,600
Rockford MSA	152,200	151,000	1,200
Springfield MSA	114,500	115,100	-600
Illinois Section of St. Louis MSA	228,800	229,900	-1,100
Illinois Statewide	5,935,700	5,903,500	32,200

*Preliminary **Revised

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Not Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates (percent) for Local Counties and Areas

	Aug-15	Aug-14	Over the Year Change
Rockford MSA			
Boone County	5.7%	7.1%	-1.4
Winnebago County	6.5%	8.2%	-1.7
Cities			
Belvidere City	6.6%	8.2%	-1.6
Freeport City	7.0%	8.9%	-1.9
Rockford City	7.9%	9.8%	-1.9
Counties			
Bureau County	5.6%	7.4%	-1.8
Carroll County	4.9%	5.9%	-1.0
DeKalb County	5.1%	6.5%	-1.4
Henry County	5.4%	6.4%	-1.0
JoDaviess County	4.4%	5.5%	-1.1
Kane County	5.1%	6.6%	-1.5
Lee County	4.8%	6.3%	-1.5
McHenry County	4.8%	5.9%	-1.1
Ogle County	5.6%	7.1%	-1.5
Stephenson County	5.9%	7.3%	-1.4
Whiteside County	5.7%	6.9%	-1.2

Stephenson County

The August 2015 not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.9 percent compared to 7.3 percent in August 2014. The last time the August rate was equal to or lower was in 2007 when it was 5.1 percent. For the month of August 2015, the number of people unemployed in the labor force was 1,300.

Total nonfarm employment fell (-525) compared to a year ago. Professional-Business Services (+100) and Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (+50) added the most jobs from August 2014. Financial Activities (-225), Manufacturing (-200), and Leisure-Hospitality (-150) sectors recorded the largest employment decline compared to one year ago.

Note:

- Monthly 2014 unemployment rates and total non-farm jobs for Illinois metro areas were revised in February 2015, as required by the U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Comments and tables distributed for prior metro area news releases should be discarded as any records or historical analysis previously cited may no longer be valid.

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Rockford MSA Highlights

Help Wanted

Area employers advertised for 7,500 positions in August and approximately 84 percent sought full-time employment, according to Help Wanted OnLine data compiled by the Conference Board. It is a global, independent business membership and research association. Employers actually need more workers than the help wanted advertising indicates because some industries, such as construction, typically do not advertise job openings.

Rockford MSA

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 6.4 percent in August 2015 from 8.0 percent in August 2014. The last time the August rate was equal to or lower was in 2007 when it was 5.9 percent. For the month of August, the estimated number of people unemployed in the labor force was 10,800.

Total nonfarm employment increased +1,200 compared to August 2014. Manufacturing (+700), Transportation-Warehousing-Utilities (+400), Retail Trade (+300), Leisure-Hospitality (+200), and Wholesale Trade (+100) reported payroll gains. Construction (-300), Financial Activities (-100), and Professional-Business Services (-100) recorded declines compared to one year ago.

Ogle County

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 5.6 percent in August 2015 from 7.1 percent in August 2014. The last time the August rate was equal to or lower was in 2007 when it was 5.2 percent. For the month of August 2015, the number of people unemployed in the labor force was 1,400.

Total nonfarm employment fell (-200) compared to a year ago. The Manufacturing (+125) sector added the most jobs over the year. Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (-75), Educational-Health Services (-75), Professional-Business Services (-50), and Other Services (-50) recorded employment declines compared to one year ago.